

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2001

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You are cordially invited to attend the opening reception of the
Placer County Museum's new exhibits

**Pleistocene Fauna of Hawver Cave
and
Golden Destiny, Fulfillment of the Dream**

Thursday, February 22, 2001
From 5:00 – 7:30 PM
In the Placer County Museum
Located in the historic courthouse
101 Maple Street, Auburn, CA

**MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S NOTES
BY JERRY ROUILLARD**

New Curator Joins Museums Staff

In early December, Alycia Wood took over the Curator of Collections position vacated by Chris Hughes' retirement in November. Alycia comes to the new job from her former position as Curator of the Museum of Anthropology at CSU Chico, and she has experience in many of the key areas of museum operations that are critical to managing the Department's Collections Division.

With her background in Anthropology, Alycia comes to the Placer County Department of Museums at a particularly opportune moment. We are currently completing a brand new exhibit featuring Pleistocene era artifacts recovered from Hawver Cave on the North Fork of the American River. The exhibit will



**New Curator Alycia Wood chats with Docent Myrna Yurfest
at the Volunteer – Staff Holiday Party**

will feature the flora and fauna present in our area 10,000 – 15,000 years ago. The exhibit opens in mid February, and Alycia, with her training in prehistory, is proving to be a valuable new member of the Department's exhibit team.

Archives Name Change

At their December 19th meeting, the County Board of Supervisors approved changing the name of the County Archives to the *Placer County Archives and Research Center*. Our Department asked for the change so the name would better describe the evolving function of the Archives. In recent months, we have been transferring reference materials to the Archives from our Collections Management Facility and from our historical reference collection at the Courthouse. The idea is to make the Archives our one-stop historical research location, and hopefully our new name helps establish this connection. For more information about the expanded public research resources of the *Archives and Research Center*, please call Carmel Barry-Schweyer at 889-7994, or email her at Cbarry@placer.ca.gov.

History and Tourism

The January meeting of the Placer County Historical Organizations Committee featured a very interesting presentation by Elizabeth DePalma, the new Executive Director for the Placer County Visitor's Council. Helen Wayland hosted the meeting at the Colfax City Hall, and Elizabeth provided the group a preview of the important role local history is expected to play in the Visitor's Council's strategic plan for increasing cultural tourism in Placer County.

Establishing a more prominent and a more easily accessible Visitor Information Center is one of the steps the Visitor's Council is already taking to promote local tourism. The new Visitor Information Center will be located in the old Dairy Queen building on Lincoln Way at the Foresthill exit off I-80 in North Auburn. In her presentation, Elizabeth made it clear that she welcomes the assistance of Placer County's historical groups in providing displays and information at the new center, and she made a compelling case for our historical groups to support the Visitor Council's tourism promotion plans.

At Elizabeth's invitation, the Historical Organizations Committee scheduled their next meeting at the new Placer County Visitor's Center on March 13th. These meetings are open to the public, and you might want to attend this one if you want to learn more about the connection between Placer County history and tourism.

The Economic Impact of Arts and Humanities in Placer County

The Placer County Arts Council is conducting a survey to determine how much financial impact arts and historical organizations contribute to the county.

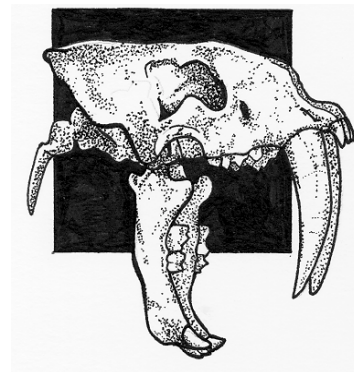
They have asked our help with the study, and they will be contacting many of our historical organizations in this regard. Anthony Folcarelli is a management consultant who has volunteered to serve as Chairman for the survey, and you may hear from him with a request for information about your group. Participation in this nation-wide study has the blessing of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, and we hope you can assist the Arts Council if they do contact you. Your participation will help make a strong case for future investments in the cultural resources of our county, and it just may return some direct benefits to your organization.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS & PROGRAMS BY DORIS PARKER

Pleistocene Fauna of Hawver Cave

The Placer County Department of Museums is pleased to announce the opening of a new permanent exhibit, *Pleistocene Fauna of Hawver Cave*. The exhibit will open in the Placer County Museum Gallery, located in the Placer County historic Courthouse, 101 Maple Street, in Auburn, in February.

This exhibit, which has been researched and designed by Guest Curator Mary Olswang, introduces a new dimension to the museum as we explore the fossil record of the Rancho La Brea period of the Pleistocene era, which is dated at approximately 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.



Auburn dentist, J.C. Hawver explored Hawver Cave in the late 1800's. It is one of three California caves to yield Pleistocene animal fossils for study and display. Our department is grateful to the U.C. Berkeley's Museum of Paleontology for the fossil castings that are the focus of this exhibit.

The exhibit focuses on several species of extinct mammals and birds found in the cave. A painting, created for the exhibit by local artist Kenneth Kirkland, brings these long dead animals back to life. Mary Olswang's educational materials will help

young audiences appreciate the significance of the exhibit. Information on the exhibit opening is included below.

Golden Destiny, Fulfillment of the Dream

The last in our series of *We Came for Gold* series, *Golden Destiny, Fulfillment of the Dream*, will open February 22nd in the Placer County Museum, located in the historic Courthouse, 101 Maple Street in Auburn.

This exhibit will focus on the contributions of the gold seekers who came to Placer County from the United States, the U.S. territories and from Canada. After President Polk's address to Congress in December of 1848, in which he displayed 230 ounces of California gold and emphasized the riches of the new territory, thousands of United States citizens journeyed to California.

The 1852 Census lists over 5,000 of Placer County's residents whose former homes were the eastern states or the western territories. With Canadians representing another 80 Placer County citizens in this census, the "Americans" and Canadians represented almost fifty percent of the county's 10,780 population in 1852.

While many of the gold seekers from the states intended to get rich and return to their homes, a significant number of them stayed in California and in Placer County to establish major industries and to shape the political development of the area.

Our exhibit will explore the diversity of this migration and the contributions that these people made to our county's development.

The opening reception for *Golden Destiny* and the Hawver Cave exhibit will take place on Thursday, February 22nd from 5:00 – 7:30 PM at the Placer County Museum, 101 Maple Street in Auburn.

Discovering Our Heritage Living History Program

The Department of Museums will be launching a new education program, the *Discovering Our Heritage Living History Program*, this spring.

For several years the department has contracted with the Docent Guild to offer the *Bernhard Museum Living History Program*. This very successful program has received high praise from the local schools, but has been able to serve only a limited number of students.

In order to accommodate more schools the department has developed an additional program in which the teachers and parents are responsible for all

of the student activities in a day of hands-on learning about farm life in the 1880's.

For more information on either one of the living history programs, please contact Doris Parker at 530-889-6504 or Sandra Chappelle at 530-889-6506.

VOLUNTEER ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES BY DORIS PARKER

Congratulations to the New Docent Graduates

The Fall Docent Training Class has been completed and the department welcomes the following new Docents: Robert Borg, Emeri Eide, Franklin Hampton, Bud McNeely, Laurie Meyerpeter, Sarah Meyerpeter, and Maryl Parker. Congratulations to all of you.

Spring 2001 Docent Classes

The department will be offering the next series of Docent classes beginning in the middle of February. If you are interested in learning more about our local history and in working with an energetic and enthusiastic group of volunteers, please call the Museum Administrative Offices at 530-889-6500 for further information.



And a good time was had by all. A group photo of participants at the Volunteer Staff Holiday party

Past Perfect Training

Now that Alycia has joined us as the new Collections Curator, work is resuming on the implementation of a new data base system for the Archives, Collections Management Program and the department's reference library.

In the spring we will be seeking people with computer skills and an interest in data base systems to assist the automation of our inventory records. If this project interests you, please call Carmel at 530-889-7994 or Alycia at 530-889-7705.

NEW AT THE ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTER BY CARMEL BARRY-SCHWEYER

We have received some wonderful donations and transfers in the past few months. The largest collection came from the Department of Education that includes scrapbooks and ledgers from 1895 to the 1930s. The collection has not been processed yet but will be available soon. A sampling of titles includes Minutes of Teacher's Institute, 1895-1907; Annual School Registers, Iowa Hill School, 1926-1945; Scrapbooks compiled by May Perry with clippings regarding education stories from the local newspapers; Teacher's Retirement Annual Report, 1954; and Examination of Eighth Grade Pupils, 1913-1914. This list is just to give an idea of what is in the collection. This is a very exciting addition to the Archives and Research Center.

Great Registers of Placer County from 1879-1974 have been transferred from the Museums Collection Facility to the Archives and Research Center. These are excellent sources for finding information on ancestors who lived and voted in Placer County.

Another large collection is the blueprint collection transferred by the Facilities Department. This includes approximately 200 maps of the DeWitt Military Hospital from 1943 to 1970. Individuals have donated several maps and books in the past months.



The Holiday Party gift exchange From the back (L to R) Gerda Percival, Loreley Hodkin, Helen Learn, Bob Balmain and Sharon Balmain

CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE PLACER* ARE SOUGHT

Want to see your organization's events and items of interest listed in *The Placer*? We would welcome your contributions of upcoming events, organizational news, and short articles on historical topics.

The Placer is a bimonthly newsletter edited and published by the Placer County Department of Museums in cooperation with the Placer County Historical Society. We are working to make *The Placer* an information source that serves all of the historical organizations in Placer County.

Please submit all material to Doris Parker at the Placer County Department of Museums. We prefer that you send the information by e-mail or on computer disk, however we will accept written or faxed material. E-mail your material to dparker@placer.ca.gov. Send hard copy to Doris at 101 Maple Street, Auburn, CA 95603. Our fax number is (530) 889-6510. **The deadline for material for the next *The Placer* is February 23, 2001.**

NEW TAHOE LANDMARK

At their November meeting, the California State Historical Resources Commission voted unanimously to list the Tahoe Community Center, located on Commons Beach in Tahoe City, as a California Register of Historical Resources.

The commission found the Tahoe Community Center to be significant due to its importance and association with the development of Tahoe City and for its locally distinctive architectural style known as the Tahoe Style. This form of architecture features structural log supported porticos, steep roofs and continuous roof dormers.

The community center was built in 1937-38 on a parcel of land that President Ulysses S. Grant had deeded to the citizens of Tahoe City in 1872. The project was spearheaded by the Tahoe Women's Center and funded through a variety of community fund raising projects. It has served as a community meeting place ever since and is currently the home of the North Tahoe Art Center.

WOMEN'S CLUB OF LINCOLN FACILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR LANDMARK STATUS

At their next meeting, the California State Historic Resources Commission will review the Women's Club of Lincoln's request to recommend the Women's Club of Lincoln building for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The meeting will be held on Friday, February 2nd at 9:00

AM in the Public Utilities Commission Building, 505 Van Ness Ave. in San Francisco.

The Women's Club facility, located at 499 E Street in Lincoln, was built in 1923–1924. The club's first meeting in the newly completed building was held on April 8, 1924. The project was led by Carrie Chandler Gladding, the wife of Albert Gladding the son of the Gladding McBean Company co-founder.

The facility is being nominated for landmark status on the basis its association with the Women's Club, a long time social and charitable influence in the community of Lincoln.

GOLD DISCOVERY DAY

January 24th marks the anniversary of James Marshall's momentous discovery of gold in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill. The Marshall Gold Discovery State Park will commemorate the event with a day of living history presentations, interactive period trade demonstrations, music, and a *Gold Rush Symposium* featuring noted authors and scholars on gold rush history. The celebration will be held on Wednesday, January 24th from 10 AM – 4 PM.

ANNUAL DISCOVERY OF GOLD BANQUET

Native Sons of the Golden West, fresh off a very active summer of Admission Days, Sesquicentennials and construction are ready to begin their 116th season in Auburn. This was one of the busiest years in the history of the Parlor #59. They completely restored an 1880 era Studebaker freight wagon that was recently seen in the Festival of Lights Parade and also built the complete Gold Bug Stamp Mill at Centennial Park in Old Town. In addition they found time to put substantial effort in California's Admission Day activities in Sacramento as well as building a tent city for Auburn's Sesquicentennial event in August.

Traditionally the Grand Parlor from San Francisco celebrates the Discovery of Gold with a banquet in Sacramento or San Francisco. This year at the request of Grand Parlor President Clare McCullough from Arrowhead Parlor #110 in San Bernardino, this annual event is moving to Auburn for 2001. Parlor President John Souza and Event Chairman Dave Allen want to invite you to come to the Sierra Building at the Gold Country Fairgrounds on Saturday January 20th for an evening of good grub and high energy entertainment to celebrate the 153rd anniversary of this historic event.

The menu for that evening will be fun and excitement. First off, the dinner served up by

members of Georgetown Parlor #91. In their own unique way they will be presenting a meal to never forget of your choice of possum or skunk. You people on the winter banquet circuit will probably figure out that that is either chicken or beef.

The entertainment for the evening will be the Ladies Oratorical Society from San Francisco. You probably saw this group most recently at the Gold Country Fair in September. This group will be performing various dance and musical numbers from the 19th century.

Tickets for event cost \$30.00 per person. For more information call the Native Sons at 887-1267 or Dave Allen at 888-8732.

NSGW CONTINUE THEIR AUTHORS' PRESENTATIONS

The Native Sons of the Golden West, Auburn Parlor # 59 will continue their series of presentations by prominent historical writers on Tuesday, January 23rd when JoAnn Levy discusses her research on Gold Rush era women. Ms Levy is the author of the historical work, *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush* and of two historical fiction novels, *Daughter of Joy* and *For California's Gold*. She won the 1999 Willa Award for Best Historical Fiction for *Daughter of Joy*.

Levy has debunked the myth that the gold rush was an exclusively male enterprise. By exploring letters, diaries, reminiscences, and newspapers, she has rediscovered the tales of women who trekked the plains, crossed the Isthmus of Panama, and sailed the Horn to participate in the greatest adventure of the age.

On Tuesday, February 20th, the NSGW will host another presentation by historical fiction author, Naida West. Ms West is the author of *River of Red Gold* and *Eye of the Bear*.

She will discuss the topic of discovering history in your own backyard. The artifacts she dug up in her garden led her to research the archives of neighboring old timers and led to the creation of her novels.

The NSGW hold their social hour at 6:30 PM. Dinners begin at 7:30 PM. There is limited seating and reservations are required for non-members. Call Chris Graves for reservations or further information at 916-663-3742.

CEMETERY ALLIANCE MEETING

The California Historical Cemetery Alliance will meet on Saturday, January 27th from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM at the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical

Society (formerly the Sacramento El Dorado Medical Society), 5380 Elvas Ave., in Sacramento.

Sandwiches can be ordered for the meeting. Call Bob LaPerriere at 916-481-4525 or email him at chca@inreach.com to order lunch, to confirm your attendance at the meeting, and/or to get directions to the meeting place.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The California Department of Parks and Recreation plans to hire as many as ten new State Historians (State Historian I & II) this fiscal year, most likely in January & February. The positions will be located throughout the state, and will handle historical resource survey and planning projects, interpretive support and a variety of other work.

Applicants should have a professional understanding of California history, public history methods, the National and California Registers of Historic Resources, and applications of environmental laws to cultural resources.

Advanced degrees are not required, but will be competitively favored.

Initial appointments will probably be Permanent Intermittent or Limited Term, but the expectation is that most will be converted to full time permanent within the next two years. Salary range for State Historian I (assistant level) is \$2,318 - \$2,628 per month and State Historian II (associate level) is \$3,455 - \$4,166.

The time allowed for applications after the exam is announced will be brief (usually no more than two weeks). To ensure that you are notified of the exam and have a chance to apply, contact James D. Newland, California Department of Parks & Recreation, South Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive # 270, San Diego, CA 92108 or email jnewland@parks.ca.gov.

OCTA OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS

The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) seeks nominations for their Outstanding Educator Award. This honor is to any individual and/or group of educators or institutions that contribute to students' education about the 19th century westward overland migrations in the United States.

The work may reflect a whole unit or a special project within the unit or course on westward migration. The project will be considered for its unique or imaginative approach *above and beyond*

the normal teaching of the subject, its appropriateness for the students' level and range of abilities, the accuracy of its historical presentation, and its effectiveness in presenting the topic to the students. The work must have been used during the 1999-2000 or the 2000-01 school year.

The five category levels for this award are Elementary-primary/intermediate grades, Middle school/Junior high, High school, Post secondary – college, adult education, and Museum/ institutional.

Forms and additional information can be obtained by writing Outstanding Educator Program Awards, Oregon-California Trails Association, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519, or by calling 816-252-2276 or faxing 816-836-0989.

The application deadline is March 30, 2001. The award will be presented at the OCTA annual awards banquet on Thursday, August 16, 2001 in Casper, Wyoming.

WHAT IS NEW AT THE PLACER COUNTY MUSEUM GIFT SHOP **BY DONNA HOWELL**

The Natives Sons of the Golden West have some souvenirs left over from the Admission Day weekend in Sacramento last September. I am stocking their bears, tie tacks, key chains and mugs *Celebrating California*. These will be collectibles.

New books include *Stories of Young Pioneers* in their own words. This is a collection of quotes from diaries from the children ages 6 – 18 on their way west. There are many references to the Mormon hand cart pioneers. Jessie Applegate is quoted several times.

The Olive in California by Judith Taylor M.D., covers the history of the olive from mission days to the present. The cover photo features Auburn's Aeolia Heights Birdsall olive orchard in color from an old post card. The Aeolia Olive Co. and Birdsall are covered in Appendix B and in the text. Other Placer County ranches and nurseries are listed.

California 1850 A Snapshot in Time by Janice Marschner, gives us a look at California at the time of statehood. Of course Auburn is in Sutter County. Maps, lists of Rancho grants, time line and some photos of building of that era are included.

There are still a few Colfax High School calendars.

THE PLACER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION **BY DONNA HOWELL**

The Placer County Historical Museum Foundation, a branch of the Placer County Historical Society, made the following donations in 2000:

To the Joss House Museum to complete the front porch;
To the Placer County Library for the purchase of a microfilm reader;
To Station A Post Office Rental Fund for one month's rent.

The Station A Rental Fund is administered by the Old Town Auburn Business Association to defray the cost of keeping Station A open.

The museum foundation is also working with the historical society to restore the donors' names to the picket fence at the Bernhard Museum Complex.

The Placer County Historical Museum Foundation was founded in 1971 to fund the Bernhard Museum restoration for the county. Since that project was completed, the foundation has broadened its interests to help with local historic causes. The foundation holds the contract for the operation of the museum gift shop.

Foundation officers are Dan Higgins, President; Vern Capell, First Vice President; Wes Briggs, Second Vice President; Al Stoll, Treasurer; and Barbara Van Riper, Secretary.

Anyone interested in joining the foundation can pick up a brochure at the museum gift shop or contact the secretary at 270 Geraldson Road, Newcastle, CA 95658. Dues are \$25.00 a year. The foundation meets on an "as needed" basis.

PLACER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY GEORGE LAY

As we begin the new year, our membership is 306. Over one third attend our bi-monthly general meetings. I attribute this high attendance as a result of the quality of our guest speakers and their subjects relating to the history of Placer County. Also to the outstanding dinners presented by Richard Yue, a local restaurant owner and native of the area. These functions are under the direction of our VP Addah Owens who deserves a big thank you!

If you are a member of the society and would like details of our numerous committees or if you have any suggestions for the good of the order, please contact me.

PLACER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINNER MEETING BY ADDAH OWENS

WHEN: February 1, 2001
TIME: 6:30 PM Dinner; 7:30 PM Program
WHERE: Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn, California
COST: \$10.00
MENU: Chinese Dinner in celebration of the Chinese New Year
MAIL CHECK TO: PCHS, c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Road, Auburn, CA 95603

PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Drake, co-founder and past president of Friends of Sierra Rock Art, will present a slide show giving an overview of the Maidu culture that inhabited this region of California. The slides and discussion will address general lifestyle, acorn processing, tool making etc. The disastrous effect the Gold Rush had on the Maidu will also be discussed. If time permits, some slides of local petroglyph sites will be shown.

The April 5th program will feature Mr. Walter Gray, archivist for the Golden State Museum in Sacramento.

PCHS NEW MEMBERS BY BARBARA BURDICK

Welcome to the following new Placer County Historical Society members: Sue Hughs of Dutch Flat and Norma & Richard Carter of Auburn.

PLACER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership – Barbara Burdick
Telephone: 530-885-4202
Historian/Archivist – Karri Samson
Telephone: 530-885-5074
Landmark Committee – Doris Viera
Telephone: 530-885-2797
Oral History – Betty Samson
Telephone: 530-885-5074
Photo-Archives -Gene Scott
Telephone: 530-885-8501
Programs – Addah Owens
Telephone: 530-885-8347
Sesquicentennial & Book Committee –
Donna Howell
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